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1-15 (canceled).

16. (original) A method of registering a home network portal, comprising:

evaluating a status of a wireless module port in a first host device in a home network including multiple host devices;

if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is not connected, evaluating the status of the wireless module port again; and

if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is connected, broadcasting to other host devices in the home network that the first host device is a home network portal having a connected wireless module.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, where at least one host device is a consumer appliance.

18, 19 (canceled).

20. (original) A system for registering a home network portal, comprising:

means for evaluating a status of a wireless module port in a first host device in a home network including multiple host devices;

means for evaluating the status of the wireless module port again if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is not connected; and

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means for broadcasting to other host devices in the home network that the first host device is a home network portal having a connected wireless module if the wireless module port status indicates a wireless module is connected.

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